Contact: Senior Special Agent Austin R. Banks, PIO (504) 329-1443

For Immediate Release May 20, 2008

ATF, FBI and LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT ARREST THREEE LOCAL MEN ON FIREARMS CHARGES

New Orleans Field Division

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Ricky D. Smith, 20, Miguel A. Sneed, 23, and Antoine Jones, 23, all of Little Rock, today were arrested without incident in Little Rock by special agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and officers with the Little Rock Police Department on federal firearms charges. They are scheduled for an initial appearance before a U.S. magistrate judge Wed., May 21, in U.S. District Court in Little Rock.

A team of investigators developed information that in early May 2008, Smith, Sneed, and Jones, who are convicted felons, possessed firearms during crimes of violence in Little Rock. Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms or ammunition.

"Reducing the number of homicides and other violent crimes committed with firearms is our primary focus," said Resident Agent in Charge Grover Crossland of the ATF Little Rock Field Office.

"The common goal of reducing violent crime in our communities will be achieved through the collaborative efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement. The three arrests today are an outstanding example of law enforcement working together to achieve our common goal to make our communities safer."

This is a U.S. Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhood case and is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Arkansas. The charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

More information about ATF and its programs is at <u>www.atf.gov</u> and about PSN at <u>www.psn.gov</u>.